



## Menominee Nation to celebrate return of sturgeon

*Special to  
Menominee Nation News*

**KESHENA** — The Menominee Nation will celebrate the return of the Sturgeon with a feast and ceremonies

on Saturday April 15, 2000, 10:00 a.m. at the Menominee Tribal School located in Neopit, Wisconsin.

The Department of Natural Resources has agreed to provide the Menominee Nation with Lake

Sturgeon for this ceremonial feast and spiritual event. The Sturgeon will be delivered to Keshena Falls, the traditional Spawning Grounds of the Sturgeon, on April 12th at 1:00 p.m. where ceremonial prayers, tobacco

offerings, and honor songs will be performed in honor of the Sturgeon and their return to the Menominee Reservation.

The centuries old spring migration of the Lake Winnebago Sturgeon to

See **STURGEON** page 2

## 3rd annual 3 on 3 tournament a success



Y. Kaquatooh/MNN

**3-ON-3 TOURNAMENT**—Boys in the 16-18 year old division compete. The third annual Menominee 3-on-3 basketball tournament was held at the Menominee Indian High School on Saturday, April 1 for area youth. A total of 35 teams participated—25 boys teams and 10 girls teams. The results of the individual and team awards will be published in the April 20<sup>th</sup> issue of *Menominee Nation News*.

## Congressman Mark Green fights on House floor to cut aid to Columbia

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**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Rep. Mark Green (R-Green Bay) worked on the House floor last week to dramatically cut aid to Colombia unless it agrees to extradite the suspected murderers of an area woman to the United States for trial.

Ingrid Washinawatok, a member of the Menominee Indian Tribe, was killed along with two other Americans last year in Colombia by members of a leftist rebel group. Since those murders, Colombian President Andres Pastrana has been quoted saying that his country would not be willing to send those believed responsible for the slayings to the United States to be tried under U.S. anti-terrorism laws.

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## Three inducted to National Honor Society



Y. Kaquatooh/MNN

**Sara Wescott, Daylanne Kaquatooh, and Ashley Isham were recently inducted to the National Honor Society—Menominee Chapter during the annual Academic Banquet held at the Menominee Casino-Bingo-Hotel. Additional photos and story identifying those Menominee students who have achieved academic excellence will appear in the April 20<sup>th</sup> issue of Menominee Nation News.**

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## REBEL:

"Justice must be done in this case," Green said. "The only way to make certain that happens is to try these murderers in a US court of law. These people are responsible for the deaths of three innocent US citizens, and they should be tried here in the United States before a jury of Americans."

Green spoke on the floor Thursday morning (March 30th) and supported several amendments cutting aid to Colombia unless the Colombians agree to send the murder suspects to be tried in US federal court.

Colombian guerrilla commander Gildardo Gonzales, a squad leader in the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebel group was arrested March 23rd. Gonzales is believed by US authorities to be responsible for the murder of the three Americans last year.

Congressman Green issued the following statement after the reported arrest.

"I'm very pleased to see the capture of the man we believe is directly responsible for the vicious slaying of three US citizens. It's taken over a year, but now that he is finally in custody, it is my hope that justice can finally be served in this case. To ensure that happens, I'll fight to get him extradited to the United States as soon as possible for trial."

"This despicable terrorist act was committed against US citizens, and the trial should be held in a US court, where we know justice will be done. We must send a message around the world that the murder of innocent Americans decent people like Ingrid Washinawatok will be met with swift and severe punishment in a US court of law."

Upon learning of the Colombian Presidents remark to not extradite those responsible, Green said, "The Colombian government's refusal to allow these terrorists to be tried in our country is unacceptable. It's unacceptable to me, it's unacceptable to the loved ones of Ingrid Washinawatok, and it ought to be unacceptable to every member of this Congress."

Green last year authored a House bill on the subject decrying the murders and calling on the Colombian government to 'find, arrest, and extradite to the United States for trial those responsible for the deaths.' The proposal passed the House unanimously by a vote of 413-0.

In February, Green issued a strong rebuke of the Colombian president for his statements on extradition. "President Pastrana's unwillingness to work together with the United States on this issue jeopardizes our cooperative relationship, and will certainly affect the way in which I view any future dealings with the Colombian government," Green said.

The rebel group, is believed to have murdered Washinawatok, Terence Freitas and Lahe'ena'e

Gay last March as the three Americans worked to educate members of a local Indian tribe. Although those responsible for the killings have been indicted by a Colombian court, they remain at large.

A senior rebel commander believed also to have been involved in the murders, German Briceno, remains at large, although he has been indicted in absentia by a Colombian court.

## STURGEON:

Keshena Falls was halted when dams were built on the Wolf River near Shawano in the late 1800's.

In the spring of the year, prior to the dams being built, the Menominee would wait for the Sturgeon to return to replenish their food supplies after long winter months. Ceremonies and dancing would follow the first days catch of Sturgeon and the significance to the Menominee people as keeper of the Wild Rice, and Tribal Historian Menominee clan symbol. Menominee Tribal Elders have also identified the Sturgeon as being a source of traditional medicine.

The ceremonial feast and celebration at the Menominee Tribal School in Neopit will consist of a traditional opening by a Menominee elder, a welcome from the Menominee Tribal Chairman, Apesanahkwat and speeches from various Menominee tribal members who will speak of the sturgeon and its traditional and spiritual significance to the Menominee people.

The feast will consist of baked and smoked Sturgeon with wild rice, maple sugar, and other Menominee traditional foods. Menominee traditional male dancers will perform the ancient 'Menominee Fish Dance' to honor the return of the Sturgeon and the Menominee female dancers will perform the Swan Dance. This will be the seventh year the Menominee Nation will be celebrating the return of the Sturgeon to their rightful home on the Menominee Indian Reservation.

The Menominee Historic Preservation Department is coordinating this event.